Join us on Wednesday, December 16th, at 6:00 p.m. for our third annual celebration of the holiday season. This year’s party and auction, replacing our normal monthly general meeting, will be held at 2717 Boylston Ave. E. Bundle up, pour a cup of hot cider and watch the Christmas ships pass through Lake Union. Then warm yourself by the fire while sampling appetizers and sweets, and enjoy the auction and the rest of the evening.

Once again local businesses have made generous donations for our auction, to be conducted by auctioneer extraordinaire Dick Arnold. A "silent" auction will also be held. Donors at press time included Julia’s, Four Seasons Cleaners, Van’s Firewood, A Plush Pup, BeautyWorks, Flowers by Aleta, Pica Place and Travel Fever. A full list of the items and services will be mailed to ECC members ahead of time; non-members can call 328-3845 for a copy.

Last year we also held a raffle at the party, the prize being a seaplane ride. We’ll be holding another raffle this year, for a great "mystery" prize that will be announced at the party....

Let’s not forget those less fortunate than ourselves. Please bring your non-perishable food items to the party, and we’ll make sure they’re delivered to a local food bank.

So take this opportunity to share in the holiday cheer. The Council will provide the spirits (champagne punch and hot cider). Food will take the form of a pot-luck, and we ask you to bring a small appetizer or sweet — prepared at home or picked up from one of our local establishments. Invite your friends and neighbors to join in. And see you on the 16th!
Hearing for 2343 Eastlake Building

We expect the City Council hearing on the 4-story, 33,000-sq.-ft. building proposed by Globe Development to be scheduled later in December or in early January.

This is the last of the four large office buildings that were proposed two years ago by developers rushing to beat a commercial "downzoning" of Eastlake. If built to the size and height proposed, it will have a serious impact on the residents and businesses in the "heart" of Eastlake. For instance, an overflow of between 65 and 92 cars is projected, even assuming moderate car-pooling by employees in the building.

The ECC is seeking to reduce the height of the building by 2 stories, and to eliminate garage access off Eastlake. Please watch for announcements of the date and time of the City Council hearing, and plan to lend audience support to this important effort.

Other Land Use Project Updates

2048 Fairview (Master Use Permit #8505493). In March, the ECC and Floating Homes Association filed suit in opposition to Shelter Ventures' proposed 29-unit, 145-ft.-long condo at Fairview and Boston. Settlement discussions have been under way since August. In response to the ECC/FHA objections, Shelter has proposed a 2-building, 25-unit concept with access off Boston; however, concerns about bulk and scale persist. Alternatives to stacked housing, such as townhouses, are being explored by the developer and the ECC/FHA.

2044 Eastlake (#8703782). The Balloonist site. Proposed is a 6-unit, 3-story condo over 1-story retail with parking for 6 vehicles. The ECC comment letter, currently being reviewed by the City, has called for a maximum of 3 stories from each grade, not 4 as proposed. The ECC believes that 4 stories is far from what was intended by the most restrictive NC-1/30-ft. commercial zoning designated for the site under the Neighborhood Commercial Code.

Neighborhood Notes

Traffic and parking study. We're told that the draft report from the Transportation Planning and Engineering group will finally be available in mid-December. We will contact those who've already called requesting copies; others who'd like a copy can call 324-1716.

Bus service on Eastlake. The transit changes for the neighborhood are still being studied. We hear that final determinations can be expected in February or March.

Cricket rematch. Peyton and Sari's Cricket Restaurant, at 2947 Eastlake, is undergoing a renovation. Look for a new name and new decor this month.

U.C.S.C. to move in January. Our neighborhood's current link to city government information and assistance, the University Community Service Center, will be relocating its office to 5214 University Way N.E., as of Jan. 4. You might not know that you can also pay your City Light and sewer/utility bills at this office.

Newsletter Notes

New Distribution Coordinator

Welcome to Frank Symington, the new coordinator of our monthly newsletter distribution throughout the neighborhood. Frank has already been in contact with most of the current distributors; more are always needed, so if you're interested call Frank at 467-4409 (w). Many thanks again to the outgoing coordinators, Sue Anderson and Jules James.

New Equipment at G&H Printing

G&H Printing, the Eastlake company that does such a great job of printing the newsletter, has bought two new machines. The old machines averaged 3,000 one-color printings per hour; the new average 5,000. Two-color printing can be run twice as fast as before without sacrificing any quality. This newsletter demonstrates the capabilities of two-color printing from G&H (329-9888).
Some Eastlake Gift-Giving Ideas

**For the coffee lover:** A pound of House Blend coffee ($6.90), a Krups Brewmaster ($39.95), and 100 #4 filters ($3.09) from Pegasus Coffee (2051 Eastlake).

**For a child:** Christmas morning fascination with an old book... Bibelots & Books (112 E. Lynn) is known city-wide for its selection of children’s books.

**For the traveller:** An English/foreign-language dictionary from International Books (across from Scoundrel’s Lair) and the phone numbers of Travel Fever (328-3900), Wright Travel (322-9962), and travel consultant Paula Pedersen (328-5444).

**For the fisherman:** 8 hours of fly-tying lessons, beginning or advanced ($35-$50); or 12 trout flies ($12-$15) from Patrick’s Fly Shop (2237 Eastlake)...and a gift certificate for Traditional Picnics (2948C Eastlake).

**For those interested in local history:** A copy of Seattle’s Unsinkable Houseboats by Howard Droker, from Bibelots & Books (112 E. Lynn). Hurry — there are only 10 copies left!

**To commemorate this Christmas:** A pair of leaded crystal wine glasses with the etching "12/25/87" ($21.55) from Blast (2946 Eastlake).

**Stocking stuffers:** gourmet jams, salsas and peppers from Nick & Sully’s (2043 Eastlake) ... monogrammed golf balls ($15-$25) from Marlow’s Golf Tech (2825 Eastlake) ... balloons from the Balloonist ... gift certificates from one of our local retailers.

**Give your neighborhood a gift.** Remember that contributions to the ECC Legal Fund are still tax-deductible through the end of this year. Thanks!

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Letter to the Editor: Freeway Sound Barrier

I’ve enjoyed making my home in the Eastlake community since purchasing my co-op apartment last summer. However, the edifying atmosphere of my west side quietly looking over the north end of Lake Union is tempered by the window-rattling noise of traffic zooming down the I-5 express lanes on my east side.

I was pleased to read of the Dept. of Transportation’s news that a sound barrier wall was being built along sections of I-5 starting north of the I-5 bridge. Since the freeway noise is closer and more intense as it cuts along our neighborhood, I was hopeful that a solution to our noise blight would follow. And I remembered local opposition to the noise factor when the freeway was originally proposed. So it seemed fair that our location would be high on the list for barriers.

After three weeks I haven’t had a reply from the DOT representatives. But my parents, living in North Seattle, had also written, and they received a call. They were informed that the costs for such barriers are high, so the number of people affected determined their construction. It seems the Eastlake area is low on the list.

I’d like to encourage those who face the freeway along Franklin E. and Boylston E. to write. Perhaps a unified effort can convince the people in charge that our community does have concerned residents who deserve consideration. This is an opportunity to reclaim a peaceful eastern border for the Eastlake community.

Address your letters to: Don Anderson, Department of Transportation, Mail Slot C-81410, Seattle, WA 98108.

Thanks,
Bruce Melin
328-7261

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Membership Application

YES!!! I want to help take care of Eastlake. My dues are enclosed for membership in the Eastlake Community Council (1 year membership).

This is a  □ NEW  □ RENEWAL Membership.

NAME __________________________ PHONE __________________________

ADDRESS __________________________

DUES: □ Household ($15) □ Sr. Citizen ($10) □ Business ($40)

Make check or money order payable to: Eastlake Community Council

Mail to: ECC Membership
2348 Franklin E.
Seattle, WA 98102
Seward School Vulnerable to Closure

Amid the current discussions of school closures in Seattle, our local Seward School is one of the schools most vulnerable to closure. At our November general meeting, held jointly with the Seward PTSA, School Board member Michael Preston conducted an enlightening discussion of the closure issue. Many thanks to Mr. Preston for spending the time with us.

Unfortunately, things don’t look good for Seward. With a student total of barely more than the 300 minimum, most of whom are bussed in and many the beneficiaries of endangered special programs like Horizon, Seward is high on the list of consideration for closure. Mr. Preston was hopeful that the school district’s closure criteria could give schools like Seward more chance of survival, and he discussed his preferred criteria at length.

Since that evening, however, the majority of School Board members have apparently voted in favor of superintendent Kendrick’s preferred criteria for closure. Seward would be more vulnerable under these criteria. And it appears that although the number of closures may be smaller, the time frame for closure may be speeded up. Mr. Kendrick will make his final recommendations to the School Board sometime next spring.

In addition to the educational issues, the ECC is very concerned about the future of one of Eastlake’s, and the city’s, most valuable older buildings. Seward School is an important part of Seattle’s past and its architectural tradition, and could become an important land-use issue.

Parents, teachers and concerned community groups do have some options. Public forums on the school closure issue will be held in January. More direct discussions with the superintendent or assistant superintendent can be arranged through the school district’s office. Those hoping for more information can also call the School District Relations Office at 281-6700.

Christmas Tree Recycling

The Solid Waste Utility is offering Christmas-tree recycling for the second consecutive year. The North Transfer Station (34th and Carr Place N.) will accept your tree on the weekends of December 26-27, January 2-3 and 9-10 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Instead of the usual garbage truck and landfill bulldozers, these trees will be composted, a rather more dignified solution for disposal. Please remove tinsel and decorations, don’t add an assortment of Christmas leftovers, and please be patient if you have a short wait.